

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 11-13, 24, and 31 have been amended. Claims 1-15 and 24-33 are pending.

Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-15 and 24-33 (Group I) and claims 16-23 (Group II) are subject to restriction. On December 12, 2005, Applicants made a provisional election of claims 1-15 and 24-33 (Group I) for prosecution. The Examiner asked for a confirmation of this election. Applicants confirm that claims 1-15 and 24-33 (Group I) have been elected for examination.

Rejections under 35 USC §102(c)

Claims 1-15 and 24-33 are rejected under 35 USC §102(c) as being anticipated by US Publication No. 2003/0187841 A1 to Zhang et al. (hereinafter “Zhang”).

Claim 1, as amended, recites mapping a received query to a plurality of pre-compiled procedures that correspond to the search arguments in the query, executing a plurality of primitive searches of a database using the pre-compiled procedures, and obtaining a list of keys from the execution of the plurality of primitive searches. Claims 24 and 31 recite similar limitations.

Zhang discloses a method comprising receiving a compound query statement and determining which aggregator operator applies to each first-level query. Zhang does not

Application Number: 10/608,853
Reply to Office Action dated 12/28/2005
Attorney Docket Number: 302708.01
Filing Date: 6/27/2003

disclose mapping a received query to a plurality of pre-compiled procedures that correspond to the search arguments in the query and executing the pre-compiled procedures to obtain a list of keys. Therefore, claims 1, 24, and 31 are allowable over Zhang.

Claims 2-15, 25-30 and 32-33 are dependent claims and therefore include all the limitations of their independent base claim in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 2-15, 25-30 and 32-33 are allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above with regard to claims.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Application Number: 10/608,853
Reply to Office Action dated 12/28/2005
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If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,
Microsoft Corporation

Date: March 27, 2006

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